

MEXICAN SITUATION BOILS DOWN TO "WITHDRAWAL OR INTERVENTION," SAYS STONE

U. S. READY TO TREAT WITH DE FACTO CHIEF

Pending the Outcome of Diplomatic Negotiations, However, Pursuit of Villa and His Bandits will Go On.

CABINET MEETING CONSIDERS SUBJECT

Whether or Not Forces Will Be Withdrawn Depends, it is Thought, Upon Ability of Carranza to Stop Raids.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, April 14.—The United States is prepared to treat with General Carranza, as proposed in his note of yesterday, for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico. Pending the outcome of the diplomatic negotiations, however, the status of the expedition will remain unchanged and the pursuit of Villa continue.

This was the situation as officially stated today after President Wilson and his cabinet had considered the new phase of the Mexican problem raised by General Carranza's communication. Secretary Lansing said he was prepared to take up the matter with the defacto government but would not indicate when a reply might be sent. Secretary Baker said no orders had been sent to General Funston and none were under contemplation. Both secretaries said there had been no change in the policy of the administration which prompted the pursuit of Villa.

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CALIFORNIA SCHOOL WINS.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., April 14.—The debating team of the College of Law, University of Southern California, won here tonight what is considered the intercollegiate championship, when awarded a unanimous decision over the representatives of Columbia University of New York. The local debaters presented the affirmative side on the question:

"Resolved, that there shall be an immediate and material increase in the army and navy of the United States."

INCENDIARY STARTED BIG FIRE IN SALEM

BOSTON, April 14.—A hired incendiary started the fire which burned a large part of Salem, causing a loss of \$13,000,000 in June, 1914, according to developments today in connection with the grand jury's investigation of a so-called arson trust. Acting on evidence in his possession, district attorney J. C. Pelletier placed under surveillance a suspect who is alleged to have gone to Salem from this city on the morning of the fire carrying a mysterious yellow liquid and packages of powder. The suspect is said to have told his friends that he had a "big job" on his hands in Salem that day.

AMERICANS ARRESTED.

PRESIDIO, Texas, April 14.—Four Americans, who rode a few miles across the border from here for the purpose of taking pictures were arrested by Mexican soldiers and their arms, consisting of a revolver, a shotgun and rifle were taken from them. They were then released and returned here.

Americans Unarmed When Attacked Upon Entry Into Parral

Unconfirmed Version of Affair From Consul Letcher Informs that Carranza Soldiers and Civilians Participated.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
SAN ANTONIO, April 14.—The Americans whom the Mexicans at Parral attacked, were unarmed, according to an unconfirmed version of the incident current in Chihuahua and transmitted to General Funston today. According to this story, forty of the troops entered Parral presumably to purchase supplies, and were fired upon. Two were killed and the remainder retreated to the main body of troops encamped outside the city.

The attacking force pursued them and were met by a fire from the Americans who were using a machine gun, killing forty Mexicans.

According to this story the attacking party comprised Carranza soldiers and civilians.

This version of the Parral incident was sent from Chihuahua to General Bell, at El Paso, who forwarded it to General Funston. Full allowance was given by departmental officers to Consul Letcher's qualifying words "unconfirmed version that was current" in Chihuahua, but there was manifested a disposition to credit the report.

Many of the officers at headquarters here regarded the story as more problematical than some of the versions that came out of Mexico.

It was pointed out that in previous occasions, soldiers had entered towns for the purpose of buying supplies and were received in a friendly manner.

General Funston continued his efforts today to get an official report from General Pershing of the occurrence, but late today, no word from him or any other officer in the punitive expedition had been received. The last heard from General Pershing was that he was moving south from Satevo and it is presumed that the commanding officer of the detachment that got into trouble at Parral had sent his report back in the usual manner, first to his colonel, who then transmitted it to General Pershing, who in turn would have to overcome the difficulties of communication by courier or aeroplane to a wireless station.

General Funston's orders to officers along the line of communication to guard against attack and to dispatch scouts to ascertain movements of any body of troops, are being carried out along the entire line, it is understood. Lieut. Gorrell and Dargue, in an aeroplane, scouting for some trace of General Arnulfo Gomez' forces that were reported preparing to move towards Casas Grandes, failed to locate the troops, but did make what is said to be a new record in army aviation, flying 310 miles in four hours and 20 minutes.

They passed along the Chihuahua-Sonora state line, some distance over the state of Sonora in the neighborhood of Pulpito Pass, but saw nothing of any troops notwithstanding a close scrutiny of the country.

General Gomez was at Agua Prieta where he said he was waiting orders to join in the pursuit of Villa, but some anxiety had been aroused here by the dispatch, a few days ago, of a force in the direction of the American line of communication. The search for that and other forces will be continued.

Just what precautionary steps have been taken by General Funston to guard the line and meet any eventualities were not revealed. He received during the day new instructions from the War Department. Short of a war measure General Funston would hesitate to use more troops in Chihuahua and leave the border without protection, without orders from Washington.

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NO TRACE OF GOMEZ

COLUMBUS, N. M., April 14.—Mounted scouts and airmen watched today for the forces of General Arnulfo Gomez, reported west of Esapia, 46 miles south of Columbus, moving southeast with the ostensible purpose of joining in the pursuit of Villa. However, according to reports tonight, Gomez had not appeared near the motor supply route.

Hurried efforts were made today to strengthen the American guard on the line between here and Casas Grandes, particularly at Ascension, sixty miles south of Columbus, where Captain U. S. Grant, a grandson of the former

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MEXICANS WILL INSIST UPON LIMITING TROOPS

Sub Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Amador, Declares Only One Service and Limited Number to Mexico.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
MEXICO CITY, April 14.—The Mexican government will insist with inflexible determination that any armed expedition of the United States which enters Mexican territory, in the guise of a punitive expedition, must be limited to 1,000 men of one service alone, cavalry, according to statement made to the Associated Press today by Juan Nefthali Amador, sub-secretary of foreign relations.

During the absence of General Carrido Aguilar, minister of foreign relations, in Queretaro, sub-secretary Amador is in charge of the foreign office and is conducting its course in international affairs.

"The Mexican government has contended in all of its notes to the Washington State Department," said the sub-secretary, "that the sending of heavy artillery and slow marching infantry on a punitive expedition is illogical and the work of the present so-called punitive expedition has more than demonstrated this, for they have accomplished absolutely nothing. Mexico will and has in all of its communications to Washington insisted that all punitive expeditions must be limited to certain restricted areas. The request of the United States that the present expedition be considered exceptional cannot be agreed to by the Mexican government for the very good reason that each day of its presence so far inland does nothing but excite our people. This is being taken advantage of by enemies of the constitutional government who are endeavoring to stage incidents that will have grave international complications."

"The Parral incident is a case in point. I consider this happening the last drop in the bucket and believe that when the American people and the American government realize its full significance they will gladly accede to Mexico's request and, in the interest of peace and in line with the traditional friendship which exists between the two countries, will withdraw the troops."

No one has ever questioned the honesty of the President of the United States in limiting the present military expedition to a punitive nature, but it is hard to convince the populace that a force of thousands of men of three branches of the service do not have the semblance of invaders. The Mexican government believes in the friendship of the United States and believes that the present crisis will pass, leaving more cordial relations than ever."

General Carranza asked to be excused from discussing international questions and referred the correspondent to the foreign office which he said was fully authorized to present the views of himself and his government. Sub-secretary Amador then explained Mexico's position.

The sub-secretary asked as to the reports that the governor of the state of San Luis Potosi had served notice on General Carranza that unless the American troops were withdrawn within a certain specified time they would join in opposing their further movement southward.

"This is absolutely untrue," replied Sub-secretary Amador. "It is true enemies of the Carranza government have been working strenuously with the people of the north to persuade them that the present movement is invasive and not punitive in its nature. At first they met with some success, but we are convinced that the people now understand the situation. The attack on the Americans in Parral was due to the influence of these enemies of the government. One of them fired point blank at an American soldier, killing him. General shooting then began. Although the soldiers had orders not to enter towns these men were forced into Parral because they could get nothing to eat in the surrounding country."

"That is the reason the Mexican government has insisted in its notes to Washington to the limits of the zone which may be traversed by any punitive expeditions, extend not farther than forty miles, nor, in our opinion, should punitive expeditions be allowed in the territory of either country for an unlimited time. Our note of March 18, Article 8, specifies the number of troops which may pass the border must never exceed 1,000 and these must not remain in the zone for more than five days, except in very unusual cases."

The entire correspondence which

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WASHINGTON, April 14.—Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, is thought to have voiced the administration's view to the Senate speaking after a conference with Secretary Lansing.

"The problem confronting this government," the senator said, "is how long it would be wise to keep an expeditionary force in Mexico. If we adhere to our policy towards Mexico we cannot keep the army there. To my mind the only alternative to withdrawing the troops sooner or later is intervention."

Senator Stone said that while he had strongly favored the sending of the expedition, he had never believed it would succeed in capturing or killing Villa. The troops already had accomplished something, he added, in breaking up some of the Villa bands.

Some army officers share the view that the capture of Villa is most improbable, unless the expedition is increased in size and scope to a complete military occupation of all northern Mexico. Since the administration has no intention to take such a step, they feel that the present mission of the expeditionary forces is merely an offensive movement in defense of the border. They do not believe raids on American towns are likely as long as the pursuit is kept up far south of the international line. Great interest in the outcome of the cabinet meeting today was manifested by members of Congress. Many inquiries as to the course to be pursued were received at the White House and by members of the President's official family. It is understood it was made very clear in every instance that domestic policies would not be allowed to have the slightest weight in dealing with the problem.

Several days may elapse before a reply can be prepared to the Carranza note and diplomatic machinery be set in motion for the negotiations between the two countries.

The State Department saw no reason today to retire from its position that a formal agreement under which the crossing of the Mexican border in pursuit of Villa proceeded had been reached with General Carranza before the order to move was given. In its reply to Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal agreement, the Department stated clearly the terms of that agreement as it understood them and declared them to be operative. A week or so elapsed, it was pointed out, before any question was raised. In the meantime, American troops already were on Mexican soil.

Mr. Lansing said today he had no recollection of having assured Eliseo Arredondo, on March 23, that the troops would not go farther south than they then were until the diplomatic situation was cleared, and that he must have been misunderstood by Mr. Arredondo. He added that at the time he did not know how far the troops had gone.

Many of the points raised in the Carranza note were viewed as referring to the protocol negotiations which followed, and not to the original reciprocal agreement.

It will take time to gather and study all the facts. Part of the negotiations with Mr. Arredondo were conducted by Counsellor Polk in the absence of the secretary.

Mr. Polk is resting at Hot Springs, Va., and will not return to Washington until next Tuesday. Lansing showed no inclination to seek a personal report from him until his return.

Attention has been given to the fact that the Carranza note rested its request for encroachments in part upon the statement that the American expedition was not fulfilling its object, the capture of Villa and dispersal of his bands, and could not fulfill it. The State and War Departments are not disposed to allow this to go unchallenged. To meet it, however, a careful review of what the troops have done, and are doing, beyond the border, will have to be made. Only brief telegraphic advice so far have been received. Full statements and explanations of opinion will be obtained in all probability from General Funston at San Antonio and from

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Today's action was based on an amendment by Senator Smith, of South Carolina. It would provide for sale of Panama Canal bonds by the government for raising the required \$15,000,000 and the President would be authorized to designate not more than five water power sites to make them available for power plants to manufacture nitrates. Products of the plants to be operated exclusively by the government, not needed for manufacture of munitions of war, could be disposed of and sold by the Secretary of War for the manufacture of fertilizer.

Three Democrats, Senators Chamberlain, Johnson of Maine, and Hardwick voted against the amendment while several Republican Senators, Clapp, Gronna, Kenyon, La Follette, McCumber, Norris and Poindexter joined with the majority in supporting it.

Over the objection of the military committee and amendment by Senator Pomeroy giving military rank to members of the dental corps, was adopted. Senator Wadsworth urged the adoption of his amendment to require officers and enlisted men, upon entering the National Guard to take oath to obey the orders both of the President and of the governor of their states. He said the amendment would strengthen the proposed federalization of the national guard, by making the officers and men federal soldiers, from the moment of enlistment instead of only in time of war. Senator Chamberlain was willing to accept the amendment but considerable opposition developed among southern senators. On a roll call for the proposal the vote was 23 to 22 less than a quorum, and the Senate recessed until tomorrow at 11 o'clock, when debate on the bill under the ten minute rule will be resumed.

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CANAL OPEN TODAY.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Tomorrow is the date set for reopening the Panama Canal closed to commerce since September 18, by shiles. War department officials said tonight that no word had come of a change in the plans and it was assumed that ships would begin passing through according to program.

Stone Voices View of Administration On Mexican Problem

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NITRATE PLANT AMENDMENT PASSES THE SENATE

Upper Branch of Congress Decides to Appropriate \$15,000,000 for Nitrate Plant for Manufacturing Powder.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
The day in Congress. Senate—Resumed discussion of army reorganization bill. Signal investigation continued. House—Discussion of agricultural appropriation bill continued. Disagreed to Senate amendment for the House bill to repeal the free sugar clause of the tariff and sent the bill to committee. Senate—Adopted amendment to army bill providing for \$15,000,000 government nitrate plant. Recessed at 5:55 p. m. to noon Saturday. House—Adjourned 5:15 p. m. to 11 a. m. Saturday.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, April 14.—Champions of a government hydroelectric plant to produce nitrate for the manufacture of war munitions and fertilizer won their fight in the Senate today by inserting an amendment proposing an appropriation of \$15,000,000 for the purpose in the Chamberlain army increase bill. The vote was 43 to 22.

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WASHINGTON, April 14.—The Senate today passed the nitrate plant amendment to the tariff bill, which would allow the government to produce nitrate for the manufacture of munitions and fertilizer by inserting an amendment proposing an appropriation of \$15,000,000 for government nitrate plant. The vote was 43 to 22.

This action disposed of the second big contest over the Senate substitute for the House army bill. It was taken in spite of the contentions of the military committee than an army reorganization measure was not the place for the water power legislation. A nitrate water power section in the House bill was defeated when the Hay bill was under consideration in the House so that final determination of the issue must wait action by conference committee by the two houses.

Today's action was based on an amendment by Senator Smith, of South Carolina. It would provide for sale of Panama Canal bonds by the government for raising the required \$15,000,000 and the President would be authorized to designate not more than five water power sites to make them available for power plants to manufacture nitrates. Products of the plants to be operated exclusively by the government, not needed for manufacture of munitions of war, could be disposed of and sold by the Secretary of War for the manufacture of fertilizer.

Three Democrats, Senators Chamberlain, Johnson of Maine, and Hardwick voted against the amendment while several Republican Senators, Clapp, Gronna, Kenyon, La Follette, McCumber, Norris and Poindexter joined with the majority in supporting it.

Over the objection of the military committee and amendment by Senator Pomeroy giving military rank to members of the dental corps, was adopted. Senator Wadsworth urged the adoption of his amendment to require officers and enlisted men, upon entering the National Guard to take oath to obey the orders both of the President and of the governor of their states. He said the amendment would strengthen the proposed federalization of the national guard, by making the officers and men federal soldiers, from the moment of enlistment instead of only in time of war. Senator Chamberlain was willing to accept the amendment but considerable opposition developed among southern senators. On a roll call for the proposal the vote was 23 to 22 less than a quorum, and the Senate recessed until tomorrow at 11 o'clock, when debate on the bill under the ten minute rule will be resumed.

BRITISH CASUALTY LIST.

LONDON, April 14.—Evidence that heavy fighting has been going on along the British front in France recently is given in the casualty lists of the last two days. Today's list contains the names of 24 officers killed and 107 wounded. Included in the list of wounded are a number of Canadians. There is a good deal of comment on the brevity of the official reports of the recent fighting. "These actions," says a newspaper, "one is continually learning from talks with men on leave, have been of great importance but have been 'described' in curt, 160 line reports."

TROUBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA

LONDON, April 14.—Special despatches from Johannesburg say that 190 persons have been convicted and sentenced for participation in the so-called poison plots in Madagascar last year. Forty of them have been ordered imprisoned for various terms, ranging from two years to life, while the remainder were banished for periods of from two to twenty years.

VILLA INDICTED.

DEMING, N. M., April 14.—The grand jury which has been investigating the Columbus raid today returned an indictment today against Francisco Villa charging him with murder in the first degree. Similar indictments were returned also against two of the eight bandits captured after the raid.

Controversy Over Submarine Issues Coming to Climax

(By Review Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, April 14.—President Wilson and the cabinet went over the submarine crisis again today and reaffirmed their determination to bring the situation with Germany to an issue.

The decision to inform Germany that the recent accumulation of evidence of ships destroyed in submarine warfare leads to the inevitable conclusion that her promises to the United States are not being fulfilled, remained unchanged. The time of despatching a communication to Berlin appeared to be the only point undecided. In Congress today a report was widely circulated that the forthcoming note would in itself give notice of a severance of diplomatic relations.

There were repeated indications tonight that the note would be a statement of the American case up to date without anything in the nature of an ultimatum, and still would leave the way open for Germany to avoid the long feared break in diplomatic relations. It was plain, however, that it would be intended as the American government's last word.

Sensors of the foreign relation committee who have been told by the President that they would be consulted before any drastic steps were taken, declared tonight that they had not yet been advised of the details of the next step. Chairman Stone conferred with Secretary Lansing during the day but declared there was nothing new in the situation.

At the State Department there was renewed evidence that the United States considers its case complete even without the affidavits which arrived today on the steamer St. Paul. Secretary Lansing acknowledged that evidence gathered from the French government to prove the identity of the submarine involved in the Sussex attack had been placed in possession of the American government. Such evidence, properly substantiated, was regarded as the capstone of the American case if one seemed necessary.

Mr. Lansing's only comment on the evidence was that it would be examined.

The impression which officials permitted to prevail was that the note to Germany would not go forward until all the evidence had been carefully considered, but that enough was at hand to make up the American case. Some officials declared the American note would go within 48 hours. In all of the case there is evidence of the gravity of the situation.

All officials agree that the accumulation of evidence has brought the situation between the two countries to the point of a break or a decided change on Germany's part. As the president and the cabinet are determined that the present condition cannot continue, the crisis which has prevailed between the two nations for nearly a year has reached a point where action must take place.

Germany mentions nothing in the way of time, and the President has not decided to narrow the case down to a matter of days, but the position of the United States will be none the less alterable on that account. Only a disclosure of the exact terms of the despatch can show what are the possibilities for the next development.

(By Review Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, April 14.—The mystery over what happened at Parral, where American troops are reported to have clashed with Mexicans on Wednesday, became more baffling than ever tonight due to the amazing variety of conflicting reports which poured into El Paso from every conceivable and many unconvincible points.

There was one point which was definite: A message was received here by an American concern from its representative in Parral stating that at five o'clock Wednesday evening American soldiers were passing through Parral and that everything was quiet then. As the fighting between the Americans and Mexicans is reported to have occurred some time on Wednesday this message only served to make the situation more perplexing. The most plausible explanation was offered in an account brought here today by an American from Chihuahua City. This man said the trouble started when two American soldiers were sent into Parral by Major Tomkins to make arrangements for the purchase of supplies. Their presence aroused the people of the city who had already been violently agitated by reports that the advancing American troops were going to take possession of the town. The two soldiers were surrounded by an angry mob and in the excitement a shot was fired which killed one of them. The mob then poured out in the direction of the main body of the Americans and some indiscriminate fighting took place in which a number of Mexicans were wounded. The Carranza garrison assisted in restoring order, according to this account and later the Americans passed quietly through the city.

This report was given a good deal of credence here on account of its source, but there was no possibility of verifying